The Paramount Journal

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Paramount Acquires Historic U.S. Pattern Gold Collection

Dr. Wilkison Collection Contains 63% of All Known Gold Patterns!

On September 20, 1973, Paramount made a landmark coin purchase when it acquired the fabulous collection of United States gold patterns of Dr. J. E. Wilkison. Max J. Humbert, Paramount President and David W. Akers, Vice-President traveled to Springfield, Tennessee to purchase the collection that Dr. Wilkison had spent over 30 years assembling.

The purchase price for the collection represented the highest amount on a per coin basis that has ever been paid for a single collection of United States coins. Several prominent dealers who were aware of the transaction have termed the purchase "the numismatic purchase of the century" and considering the extreme rarity and beauty of most of these coins, few could disagree with that sentiment.

The collection is the largest private collection of U.S. Gold Patterns in existence and is surpassed only by the collection in the Smithsonian Institution. Even at that, this fabulous collection contains at least 12 coins that are not presently in the Smithsonian Institution. In the collection there are 10 coins that are definitely unique, 6 that are possibly unique, and 6 others of which there are just two specimens known (and the collection contains both known specimens of four of those). The assembling of this fabulous collection by Dr. J. E. Wilkison is one of the most outstanding numismatic achievements of the age. The collection consists of 44 coins (32 different) which amounts to 63% of all the gold patterns that the United States has ever issued! Dr. Wilkison acquired his collection from a number of sources including many pieces from the Palace sale of the King Farouk collection in 1954 and many pieces from Dr. J. Hewitt Judd's collection. Dr. Judd is

The most valuable coin in the world! The Unique Saint-Gaudens High Relief Indian Head Double Eagle is the highlight of the entire Wilkison Collection.

J-1776

well known as the author of the standard reference work on patterns "United States Pattern, Experimental and Trial Pieces". Most of the coins in the collection are of such rarity that most of the major dealers in the United States have never actually seen a genuine specimen. Except for the few instances when they have changed hands privately, there are also virtually no records of the majority of them ever being offered for sale.

At the present time Paramount has no intentions of marketing the collection. Since so few collectors have ever had the opportunity to see these treasures of American numismatics, the company feels that it is very important that they be made available for display. The "Rembrandts" of the numismatic field are included in this collection and so to preserve a fitting historical account as well as a tribute to Dr. Wilkison's efforts, Paramount will soon issue a

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a message from the President

Max J. Humbert

We once knew a famous and wealthy businessman who upon consulting his physician was advised to slow down somewhat and find a hobby. Since coins had been of moderate interest to him from boyhood, he immediately seized this opportunity to rush out and build what we call an "instant coin collection". He charged his Executive Secretary with the responsibility of amassing a complete collection of United States type coins in the very finest obtainable condition and informed her that this was to be accomplished in a maximum period of 30 days. The Secretary complied with her boss's wishes and through many phone calls and letters was able to assemble the desired collection. Upon completion of the collection, the marvelous type set was presented to the businessman, where he showed proper enthusiasm for the coins and promptly deposited them in a safety deposit box. To the best of our knowledge, he has never looked at them since!

Stories such as this occur with some frequency and I imagine many of us have seen collectors that completely miss the point of numismatics. It is immediately obvious that a young boy who laboriously assembles a collection of Lincoln Cents from coins picked out of circulation has a much better appreciation for his collection, than the businessman we spoke of previously. The point here is not that coins must be retrieved from circulation to make collecting enjoyable, but rather the simple filling of "holes" in an album does not make coin collecting fun. In the case of the young boy collecting coins from circulation, each time he found a specimen he didn't have in his set, he experienced a reward. He had reduced the number of coins needed for his collection by one. His efforts and diligence in assembling the collection were rewarded not all at one time, but piecemeal. The same effect is attained when a collector, in advance of buying a coin, decides just what the scope of his collection will be. In the case of Lincoln or Indian Cents for example, he may wish to put together a well matched evenly toned set in a particular grade, say Extremely Fine or Uncirculated. This will not be as easy as it might sound at first, as the matching of a large number of coins is no simple task. To heighten their enjoyment of collecting, we have seen collectors set virtually impossible goals for themselves in order to extend the collecting period for as long as possible. This is one of the reasons why collectors turn to variety collecting. After they have amassed all the dates and mint marks in the series, the next step will be to collect all available varieties within

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Over 3,000 Attend G.E.N.A. Convention

THERE WAS NO LULL in four days of action when the Great Eastern Numismatic Association held its 11th annual convention at the Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia. The Hunting Park Coin Club was the official host for the event, but was capably assisted by representatives from 12 other groups from the Delaware Valley area.

James McNeill, president, and Frank Caggiano were the co-chairmen, having Robert Matylewicz and Peter Porretta as their chief assistants. The bourse was under the supervision of William Loss and Harry Troth. Ninety-five dealers from 18 states and Canada had tables and the majority reported good sales.

Attendance soared over the 3000 mark, keeping Joan Brand, G.E.N.A.'s secretary, and her registration staff of Leah Dadson, Mildred Clendenning, Esther Loss and Martha Siebert quite busy. Local TV and press coverage attracted many persons, some of whom told this reporter that they were visiting a coin show for the first time. They came to appraise their "heirlooms", see the exhibits or patronize the booth set up by the Bureau of the Mint, which sold various Mint items.

The exhibit room, with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hawes, Herbert Espy and Frederick Weber in charge, proved a magnet. The interesting displays included a number of the prize winners from the A.N.A. Convention and several show-stopping private collections.

Harmer Cole's demonstration of 14 mechanical banks, all the property of G.E.N.A., fascinated both adults and babes in arms. The banks are originals from the early 1900's and most of them still function in their amusing style.

The Franklin Mint had a special display and colored movies, shown by Edwin V. Quagliana and his wife at regular intervals. Franklin also conducted a tour to its huge new Museum at Franklin Center, Pennsylvania, transporting more than 100 persons to and from the convention by bus. The Bureau of the Mint featured a display of the Carson City silver dollars now being auctioned by the General Services Administration and showed old movies that might have been titled "How the Wild West Got its Name".

Virginia Culver, president of the A.N.A. arrived from Washington in time to attend the educational forum. Mary Brooks, Mint Director, and Miguel Munoz of Mexico were scheduled as panelists, but were unable to appear. Their substitutes were Howard F. Johnson, Chief of the Assay Laboratories of the Mint, and Ray P. Williams, known as "The Father of Bermuda Numismatics".

Johnson gave a most interesting talk on the shortage of metals (stressing copper), in which he compared various metals now being used and discussed others being researched for possible use in coin production of the future. Williams spoke on the beauty of Bermuda and traced its numismatic history.

Jackson Storm, former G.E.N.A. president, was the third speaker and gave a most interesting lecture on fractional currency, illustrating his talk with good slides. Val Pasvolsky was the moderator.

The awards breakfast on the closing day was the highlight of the convention although the prizes and special honors served are too numerous to list. Sol Kaplan was chairman of the committee for the fete, with Peter Brancu, Robert Hawes and Fredric Mantei among his many aides. Kaplan introduced most of the guests then turned over the job of presenting awards to Mrs. Rae Biester, former Superintendent of the Philadelphia Mint, and Arthur Sipe, a former A.N.A. president. Mrs. Robert Hawes had the task of handing out the beautiful trophies, plaques and other awards as the names of the winners were announced.

Among the breakfast guests were Mr. and Mrs. John Pittman, Virginia Culver, Chet Krause, Margo Russell, Tom Wass, Morris Bram and Joseph M. Segel, president of the Franklin Mint, who was honored as G.E.N.A.'s Man of the Year.

The convention auction was conducted in two sessions by Pine Tree Rare Coin Auction Sales of Albertson, New York, which reported spirited bidding on many items. The company conducted "An Evening With Walter Breen" preceding the sales and Walter – old pro that he is – handled all the queries fired in his direction by his big audience.

The Life of Your Paper Money

The average life of paper money in circulation is one year. Dollar bills receive the most use and have to be replaced the most often – about every six months. Fives, tens, and twenties last longer, while denominations of $100 or more often last two years or more.

Only certain government officials know the actual secret formula of our money, as well as the Massachusetts Company which manufactures and supplies the thousands of tons of paper used for making money each year.

The paper used in making money undergoes various factory tests. It must be sufficiently tough to withstand 3,500 double folds or creasings without cracking. It must stand tests for resistance to light. The vault where it is stored contains a three months supply. Paper that is moist requires less pressure for engraving. Therefore, it is taken from the vault, dampened, and placed in a special damp room. When the sheets come from the presses with twelve bills printed on each sheet, they are placed in piles of 200 each with a sheet of tissue paper between and sent to the drying room. From the drying room they go to the inspection division where each bill must be an exact duplicate of the preceding one. The slightest ink spot or uneven impression is sufficient to condemn it.

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NEW! U.S. Silver Investment Portfolios

Paramount is now offering selected investment portfolios of silver coins!

For some time we have offered United States and foreign gold investment portfolios. These have been very popular, many of our customers are so pleased they order additional portfolios from time to time. We must be meeting their investment goals!

Now our rare coin experts have surveyed the United States silver denominations to select silver coins which they believe have the greatest potential for price increases.

Silver coins have much going for them. Over the years they frequently acquire a patina or toning which enhances their beauty. You can put them away as investments confident that they will be just as beautiful when you choose to sell them.

U.S. silver coins contain from 89% to 90% silver. This precious metal has been valued for centuries for its beauty and its intrinsic worth. When the price of silver goes up, the intrinsic value of silver coins rises.

Each investment portfolio will be individually assembled and so we are unable to tell you exactly which coins you will receive, but you may be certain that our experts have selected each coin for its promising investment potential.

You will find in your portfolio some of the following coins:

SEATED LIBERTY DIMES, QUARTERS, HALF DOLLARS AND DOLLARS. These types have many scarce dates and mint marks among them. Included in these coins are many sleepers and underrated pieces.

EARLY HALF DOLLARS. From 1804 to 1839 silver dollars were not struck for circulation, so half dollars were minted in increasing numbers for commercial transactions. Even so, mintages are very low by today's standards. A number of interesting varieties exist for most dates. Many of these coins are over 150 years old!

MORGAN DOLLARS AND PEACE DOLLARS. Mintage figures for Morgan and Peace dollars are unreliable since tons were melted by the government. These dollars are actively collected. They are desirable and scarce as a group.

COMMEMORATIVE HALF DOLLARS. These intriguing coins were struck intermittently since 1892. As few as 2100 of some types were minted. Huge quantities of other issues were melted. The surviving commemoratives are of special interest as the United States Bicentennial approaches.

UNUSUAL DENOMINATIONS. Silver three cent pieces and half dimes have not been minted since 1873! Twenty cent pieces were minted for circulation only in 1875 and 1876!

We believe these and other silver coins offer exceptional investment opportunities. Of course, all investments involve some risk, and we cannot guarantee that they will perform as well in future years as they have previously. We do guarantee that each coin you receive will be in Extremely Fine or Better condition. Only these better grades meet our standards for investment coins.

We invite you to send for one or more portfolios.

United States Silver Investment Portfolios

Silver Portfolio #1	$ 250.00
Silver Portfolio #2	$ 500.00
Silver Portfolio #3	$1000.00
Silver Portfolio #4	$2500.00

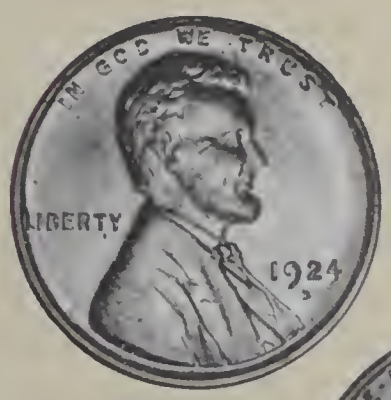
1943-D War Nickel Hoard Discovered!!

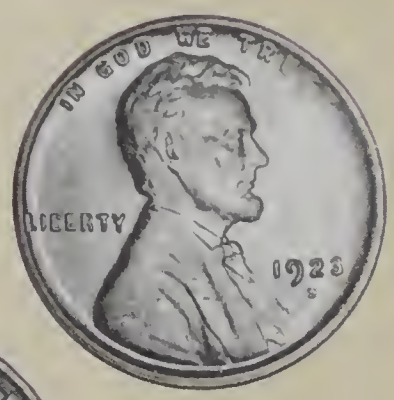
As most collectors know, during World War II, the United States Nickel was made of a silver alloy as nickel and copper were in short supply due to defense needs. One coin stands out from all the other so-called war nickels – namely the 1943-D. With a mintage of slightly more than 15 million, this is one of the most difficult war nickels to find in Brilliant Uncirculated condition. Many of these coins have been melted during the last 5-10 years as their silver content alone makes them worth double face value!!

We were indeed fortunate in buying a large quantity of these elusive coins from an Eastern Indiana farmer who had been hoarding Uncirculated 1943-D's for many years. For your convenience, we offer single pieces or lots of 5 and 10. All of these coins will be Brilliant Uncirculated.

1943-D Jefferson Nickel, BU, Each	$ 4.95
5 Pieces	$22.50
10 Pieces	$42.50

Two Rare Lincoln Cents





Two of the rarest Lincoln Cents in Choice Uncirculated condition are the 1923-S and 1924-D. These two coins are fairly common in Circulated grades, but as true, original, Uncirculated coins, they are as rare, if not much rarer, than the 1909-S VDB Cent! Very few mint state 1923-S and 1924-D specimens were saved! Combine this fact with two of the lowest mintages in the entire Lincoln Cent Series and you have two rarities!

Well, a very unusual event happened recently at Paramount when we purchased an original roll of each date! No one in our Company could ever recall seeing or hearing of such a quantity of these two dates. In our offices we see some of the rarest coins ever struck, but when we saw these Cents, we were all stunned!

These are beautiful coins. All are original with some Brilliant and others Red and Brown Uncirculated. We doubt that a quantity of these dates will ever surface again – especially as Choice as these are! And even better, our prices are BELOW THE 1974 GUIDE BOOK. If you are among the many people looking for these dates in Choice Uncirculated, do not miss this opportunity. You may look for years without finding equal quality.

The 1923-S Cents we have are better struck than most of that year. This date is almost always seen very weakly struck. In fact, 1923-S Cents are probably the weakest struck of all Lincoln Cents. You will receive coins which are better than most.

These rare dates are available singly or as a pair. Either way, our selling price is BELOW the 1974 Guide Book.

1923-S, Choice Uncirculated Lincoln Cent	$175.00
1924-D, Choice Uncirculated Lincoln Cent	$210.00
BOTH of the ABOVE	$379.00

A Ten Year Review of U.S. Type Coins

SIXTH IN A SERIES

by Raymond N. Merena

Raymond N. Merena

There is probably no series of United States coinage where less research and definitive reference works have been published than in the dime series. For the true numismatic "frontiersman" this series represents an untapped area of research. If you refer to your Red Book you will note that the suggested bibliography consists of one book, actually a monograph by Kosoff in 1945. It is hard to imagine why the dime series has failed to pique the fancy of numismatic researchers but it seems reasonable to assume that this void will not remain for very long. Over the past few years particularly the last few months we have noted definite signs of increased interest in the dime series. As you can see from the accompanying chart, the dimes as type coins have faired rather well over the past 10 years but it is our opinion that the best gains are yet to come.

Once again we must strongly urge our readers to buy quality when purchasing rare coins. At risk of sounding like a broken record, the top quality coins have realized the greatest gains over the years. There has never been a period in American numismatic history where quality was not important.

Dimes were first regularly issued beginning in 1796. The first type with small eagle reverse was minted for only two years. In grades better than Fine this type should do well in the future. In examining the figures listed in the Red Book you will note that the 1796 commands a higher catalogue value than the 1797, even though the mintages are similar. This phenomenon is quite normal in numismatics in that the first year of type is held in higher esteem by collectors than the later issues. The 1796, of course, has the distinction of being the first year of issue.

The second type issued from 1798 to 1807 with small eagle reverse utilizes the same design obverse as did the preceding issue. As a type, this is seen considerably more frequently than the small eagle reverse type due to the greatly increased number of coins issued. We would recommend coins in Very Fine or better grade for future appreciation.

The third type or capped bust type issued from 1809 to 1828 presents a real challenge to the grading ability of the investor. In this type we would recommend that you confine your investments to strictly Uncirculated specimens but this is much easier said than done. By virtue of the greater stand in years and the higher total mintages a relatively large number of high grade specimens appear on the market. Unfortunately, only about one in three specimens that is offered as Uncircualted truly deserves the classification. It would be well to point out at this time, however, that weakness in striking should not be confused with actual wear.

In 1828 a new smaller planchet was introduced with the same design that was used previously. By virtue of this change in size, this variety is considered to be a new type and is considerably more populous than the first or large planchet variety.

Beginning in 1837 the eagle was removed from the reverse of the dime and he hasn't found his way back to that coin yet! The 1837 liberty seated type dime was inspired by the patterns of the previous year and provided the primary obverse device for our silver coinage until 1891. The no stars dime in Uncirculated condition is extremely elusive and undoubtedly represents one of the best bets for the years ahead. Once again there is a great deal of difference between strictly Uncirculated and virtually Uncirculated or other such euphuism. Beginning in 1838 stars were added to the obverse of the dime providing us with yet another type. In 1840, drapery was added to the seated figure of liberty giving us a sub type. Although this series is primarily concerned with type coins it is well to mention here that the O mint dimes from 1840 to 1852 are greatly undervalued in Uncirculated condition and should be strongly considered whenever found.

In 1853 the weight of the dime was reduced and this change was noted by the placement of arrows at either side of the date. In 1856 the original composition was resumed and the arrows were removed from the obverse. In 1860 the stars on the obverse were replaced by the legend "United States of America" and the entire reverse was redesigned giving birth to a completely new type. In 1873 the weight of the dime was increased slightly and arrows were added to the date to denote this change. The type of 1860 was resumed in 1875 and continued to the end of this variety in 1891. The following year the Barber Dime was introduced and continued until 1916 when it was replaced by the "Mercury Dime". Actually this designation is a misnomer as the designer contended the obverse to represent the bust of liberty with wings symbolizing freedom of thought. The 1916-D Mercury Dime is probably the most popularly counterfeited coin in American numismatics and extreme caution should be exercised when buying any specimen above the grade of Very Good. The existence of a multitude of counterfeits has suppressed the value of the coin in high grade and will probably keep this coin from attaining its true value. One of the most difficult to locate coins in this series is a true Uncirculated 1942/1 overdate dime. Almost all of these coins spent time in circulation before the existence of this overdate was dis-

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Numismatics Oldest Controversy

FOLLOWING ON THE HEELS of World War II, one of the biggest booms in present-day history got under way. That boom – heard 'round the world – was COIN COLLECTING.

How much of this was due to a genuine interest in coins, and how much to an attempt at mere speculation, is a debatable matter indeed. Nevertheless, today there are millions of coin collectors, and how much these newcomers know about the grading of coins is a moot question. That little word "grading" is a real bugaboo; a "fly-in-the-ointment"; a controversy as old as numismatics itself.

The average collector must depend, to a certain extent, on the opinions of the dealer from whom he buys. And standardization of coin grading has, at best, been a slow process. Many of the old-time dealers and collectors grade by "instinct". It comes as a "natural" to them because they have handled and examined so many coins in all conditions that they can automatically grade a coin at first glance.

An old cliche' among some collectors and dealers is that no two people will grade the same coin alike; it is a matter of personal opinion, they say. However, anyway you slice it, one fact remains: the more experience a collector has had with various types and conditions of coins, the greater his confidence in a standard grading system. And there are standards in the grading system today; standards that can be found in a number of good grading books on the market.

When examining a coin to be graded, the collector should take careful note of the general over-all condition of the coin. He should be able to tell if the piece has ever been in a fire – it would have a black or hard brown surface. He should be able to recognize corrosion, or if the coin has been in acid. He should note any bad gouges, rim nicks, scratches, poorly struck numerals and/or letters. Coins that are badly worn, or show serious defects, are hardly worth keeping, unless, of course, the coin is a rare one.

It is the natural tendency of beginning collectors to overgrade a coin. But remember – it is always better to *undergrade* – erasing any element of doubt – than to overgrade. To grade a circulated coin, one must first acquire a complete knowledge of an *uncirculated* coin. If possible, under a magnifying glass and with good lighting, for even *uncirculated* coins have various grades. They may, indeed, be uncirculated yet not be perfect. Quite often coins receive rough handling at the mint. They can have rim nicks, scratches, gouges. Therefore, an uncirculated coin, to be most desirable, must be perfectly struck and can be graded accordingly; Choice, Select, Gem, etc.

In summation, the whole process of forming any coin collection is based entirely on one very important phase of collecting: the "grade" of each individual coin, and the "knowledge" to back it up.

Remember, a collector's best ally is books – and more books! Read. Read. Read. It was the late James Kelly's theory that no collector could have too much knowledge. He pushed every reputable book that came on the market, and to be sure they were readily available to his customers, he stocked them. "Knowledge" was the underlying theme of every talk he ever gave; every radio and TV appearance he ever made. And he practiced what he preached!

So, start a library today. Make it grow along with your collection. Next to coin collecting, it will be the best investment you ever made!

David W. Akers Named Paramount Vice-President

David W. Akers

Max J. Humbert, President and Chairman of the Board of Paramount International Coin Corporation, has announced the election of David W. Akers to the position of Vice-President, Marketing. Akers was elected to the newly created position by the Board of Directors on September 25, 1973. Prior to his assuming his new post, Akers served as the Company's Director of Sales, a position he had held since joining the Company in January 1972.

In his new position, Akers will continue to supervise and direct Paramount's extensive and continually increasing marketing activities both in the fields of rare coins and modern issue coins. The Company currently acts as the exclusive world-wide numismatic agent for ten countries and conducts energetic national media and direct mail advertising campaigns on their behalf. Akers coordinates these advertising efforts with the assistance of Paramount's capable and talented advertising and marketing departments. Paramount also enjoys a prominent position in the rare coin field and Akers will continue his active involvement both in the purchase and sale of rare coins. In the past year, Paramount instituted the Pro/Collectors Club, a unique investment service for members of various medical organizations. Humbert pointed out that Akers will continue to be involved in the development of the Club.

When he joined the Company in 1972, Akers brought with him over twenty years of experience as a numismatist as well as the considerable administrative experience gained from his three years as an army officer and three additional years as the Chairman of the Mathematics Department at Saint Martin's College in Olympia, Washington. A native of Seattle, Washington, Akers holds a Bachelors Degree in Mathematics from the University of Notre Dame as well as a Masters Degree in the same field from Oregon State University. He lives with his wife, Sharron, in Dayton, Ohio.

Now, You CAN Take it With You!

Some years ago, a member of the New Zealand Numismatic Society exhibited a most unusual Chinese bank note. It indicated the note was "redeemable in Hades!"

According to the exhibitor, the note was used in idol worship and redeemable for $50 at the "Silver Bank of Hades". The Chinese burned these notes before their idols, the exhibitor explained, in the belief that the idol would accept them at their face value. He went on to say that history indicates bank notes existed in China 4,600 years ago, well before the dawn of the Christian era. He observed that evidently some Chinese knew how "to send money up in smoke" other than with an opium pipe!

The note exhibited, incidentally, was a counterfeit, apparently in the belief that if a custom insisted on burning money for the devil, there was no point in wasting the real thing!

Small Coin...

Balboa's name on the 10 millimeter "1904 Two-and-a-half Centesimo Panama 'Pill' " is perhaps the smallest lettering used on any world coin. The 1940 One-and-a-quarter Centesimo was the only Panamanian coin struck using Balboa's full name, Vasco Nunez de Balboa. His name was deleted from under his bust on all coins issued after 1929, except for the 1940 coin.

Two Pennies Which are Rarer Than the 1909-S VDB!

When one thinks of rare United States Cents, the 1909-S VDB is probably the first to come to mind. This famous United States rarity has a mintage of 484,000 and is valued well over $100 in high grades.

Did you know that Great Britain issued two different Pennies (1950 and 1951) with mintages well below the 1909-S VDB? In 1950, only 240,000 (½ the 1909-S VDB mintage) regular issue Pennies were struck at the Royal Mint in London. *None of these coins were originally released in Great Britain,* but were circulated in the West Indies. The following year saw a mere 120,000 (¼ the 1909-S VDB mintage) regular Pennies struck and all were exported to Bermuda. The only 1950 and 1951 Pennies issued in Great Britain were proofs and these were issued only in a very limited number of proof sets.

The fact that these were minted in much smaller quantities than the 1909-S VDB Lincoln Cent and the fact that no 1950 and 1951 British Pennies were released into circulation in Great Britain is not all that these coins have going for them. Bermuda and the West Indies are both located in salt water climates which tends to have an adverse effect on bronze coinage. Therefore many of these coins are often seen heavily corroded.

When our buyers went to Bermuda and the West Indies to buy these, they were very careful to bring back only those coins which were not corroded. We offer both dates in either Extremely Fine or About Uncirculated condition at prices well below what you would expect to pay for these two modern rarities.

1950 BRITISH PENNY (Mintage: 240,000)

EF $27.50
AU $39.00

1951 BRITISH PENNY (Mintage: 120,000)

EF $29.50
AU $37.50

WILKISON COLLECTION

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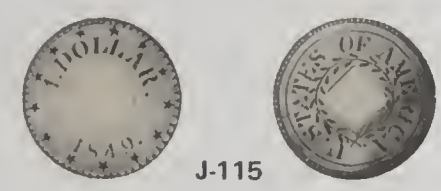
hardbound full color book with a complete story of the coins and how Dr. Wilkison came to acquire them. Production plans for this reference book, of course, are still a bit indefinite at this point, but in all likelihood the book will be available to collectors, libraries and museums early in 1974.

U.S. gold coin patterns that are actually struck in gold are undoubtedly the most desirable coins in numismatics. If one were to take a poll of major dealers and collectors as to which coins they would most like to own, chances are that the majority of them would name one gold pattern or another. For example, the 1849 double eagle which rests in the Smithsonian Institution is a pattern. So are the unique 1877 $50 gold pieces that were sold to the Smithsonian Institution in 1909. And so is the coin that until now has realized the most of any coin ever sold. This coin is the famous Extremely High Relief double eagle, an example of which reportedly traded hands late last summer for in excess of $125,000. The Wilkison collection contains a *perfect* example of the latter as well as many, many other rarities in the gold pattern series. Among its many highlights is the coin considered by most to be the most desirable and valuable coin in existence, the unique 1907 Indian Head $20 gold piece. If and when it is placed on the numismatic market, it will certainly bring an all-time record price for a coin.

Although it is not possible to go into complete detail about each coin in the collection in this article, we will do so in subsequent issues of The Paramount Journal, when we look at each coin in turn. However, here is a brief description of the coins in this fabulous collection.



J-115

The collection contains three examples of Judd 67 which is the 1836 gold dollar with Liberty cap on the obverse and the denomination encircled by a palm branch on the reverse. Probably no more than fifteen were struck and each of these three is a perfect gem proof. In 1849 an experimental gold dollar with a "square hole" was made at the mint and the Longacre design is *engraved* on the coin. This gold pattern is Judd 115 and two examples are in the Wilkison collection. The collection contains one example of Judd 135 which is an 1852 gold half dollar with a center perforation. There is also a blank planchet for Judd 135 in the collection. The year 1852 also produced several different patterns of the so-called ring gold dollars which were larger in denomination than the ordinary gold dollar and had a hole in the middle. Dr. Wilkison was able to acquire one Judd 136, one Judd 137, two examples of Judd 141, and four of Judd 145 which are all 1852 ring gold dollars. The Judd 137 is a particular rarity since only two are known, both of them struck over quarter eagles.

Max J. Humbert, Paramount's President, concludes transaction with Dr. J. E. Wilkison for the purchase of the latter's collection of U.S. gold patterns. The purchase price was the highest on a per coin basis ever paid for a single collection of coins.

David W. Akers, Vice-President, examines one of the many rarities from the Wilkison collection. The collection is the finest private collection of U.S. gold patterns in existence.

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A beautiful $5 gold piece of enlarged diameter was proposed in 1860 and became the pattern known as Judd

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WILKISON COLLECTION

(Cont'd. from Page 9)

271. Only two specimens are known and both of them are in the Wilkison collection. The 1865 $3 gold piece is one of the rarest coins in the entire $3 series. The coin was restruck in 1873 using the regular obverse die of 1872 and a reverse similar to the regular die but with the date sloping up to the right. Only two examples of this restrike are known and one of them, a perfect gem proof, is in the Wilkison collection. This particular coin is listed in Judd's pattern book as Judd 440. Just two specimens are known of the transitional 1865 double eagle that has the exact design that was regularly adopted a year later. (It has the motto "In God We Trust" on the reverse.) Of the two known specimens, one is in the Smithsonian Institution and the other is in the Wilkison collection. It is a superb frosted gem proof and is as fine a proof double eagle as we have ever seen. It is listed as Judd 452 in Dr. Judd's reference work. James B. Longacre designed a beautiful eagle in 1868. The obverse has a head that is very similar to that which appeared on the popular 3¢ nickel piece. Only three pieces were struck in gold and the Wilkison collection contains two of those, both of them superb gems.

One of the highlights of the collection is the 1872 pattern gold set consisting of six coins: $1, $2½, $3, $5, $10 and $20. Designed by William Barber, they are identical in design and therefore constitute the only such set of pattern gold coins ever struck by the United States Mint. Each coin in the set is unique and is in the most perfect condition imaginable. To say that the set is priceless really does not do it full justice. The story behind Dr. Wilkison's acquisition of this set is as interesting as the set itself and we will discuss it in detail at a later date. For those of you who have Judd books, the appropriate number of the six coins in this unique set are J-1224, J-1230, J-1235, J-1240, J-1245, and J-1250. Another beautiful coin designed by William Barber was the 1873 half eagle. The reverse design is identical to that on the coins of the unique 1872 set and the obverse has a very attractive representation of Liberty. This coin is Judd 1337 and only two were struck. (The whereabouts of the second piece is currently unknown.)

J-1373

One of the most unusual coins in the collection is the 1874 pattern eagle that is referred to as the Dana Bickford International Ten Dollar gold piece. This is a very popular pattern even in the "off" metals and copper, aluminum and nickel examples of this unusual pattern are in fact the only examples that collectors can hope to own since the Wilkison collection contains both of the known gold specimens. Dr. Wilkison thought enough of this beautiful Bickford pattern to pay $25,000 for one of his specimens over 10 years ago at a time when virtually no other coins were bringing anywhere near that amount. This beautiful pattern, which features five monetary equivalents to ten dollars on the reverse, is listed in Judd's pattern book as J-1373.

J-1443

We recently sold a regular issue 1875 half eagle in AU condition for $35,000. It was the renowned Wolfson specimen and the only one offered for public sale in the last 11 years. However, compared to the two examples of Judd 1438 that Dr. Wilkison has in his collection, that regular issue 1875 is a common coin. The obverse design of this pattern features William Barber's famous "sailor's head" design of Liberty and a reverse that is very similar to the 20¢ piece. Only two specimens were struck, both perfect gem proofs, and they are in the Wilkison collection. The matching $10 pattern gold piece of 1875 is equally as rare as the five since just two were struck. It is Judd 1443 and a superb example is in Dr. Wilkison's collection.

In 1909 two previously unknown transitional double eagles came to light when they were sold by the dealer Haseltime to William H. Woodin of New York, the pattern specialist. One of those unique double eagles, a transitional piece dated 1876 with the regular design adopted in 1877, is now in the Wilkison collection after Dr. Wilkison obtained it from the Farouk sale in 1954.

Seven pattern gold coins were issued in 1878 and the Wilkison collection contains five of those (the two others are unique and their whereabouts is presently unknown). In Dr. Wilkison's collection are J-1566, J-1575, J-1577, J-1579, and J-1581. This first is a $2½ gold piece designed by George Morgan; and the next two are half eagles, one designed by Morgan and the other by William Barber, and the last two are eagles which are identical in design to the half eagles. As is the case with all the patterns in the Wilkison collection, these five 1878 gold patterns are in utterly breathtaking condition. They are also of the utmost rarity, all being at least Rarity 8 and possibly unique.

Columbus First Again!

The first man portrayed on a U.S. coin was Columbus, on the Commemorative Half Dollars of 1892 and 1893.

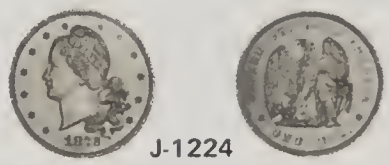
J-1643

Ask any gold collector what is the most popular of all U.S. gold coins and he will probably answer the $4 Stella. What many collectors do not realize however, is that there was also a Quintuple Stella issued in 1879 as well as the well known Stella. This piece is Judd 1643 and it is far more rare than any of the four Stellas that were issued in 1879 or 1880. Only a few are known in gold and the Wilkison collection contains a superb gem. Even in copper this pattern is rarely offered, and when it is it brings extremely high prices. The Dr. Wilkison collection is concluded by four patterns from 1907. Two of them are the well known wire edge and rolled edge eagles with periods, Judd 1774 and 1775. Both are in absolutely perfect condition and look like virtual twins from the standpoint of color and striking. They have undoubtedly been together since the first day they were made. Along with the unique 1872 set, the Indian Head double eagle of 1907 certainly rates as the highlight of this fabulous collection. The coin has an extremely high relief and the obverse features an Indian Head that is very similar to that on the regularly adopted $10 gold piece. The reverse however, is almost identical to that of the Saint-Gaudens double eagle except that it has the date in Roman numerals across the sun. This coin is Judd 1776 and we unhesitatingly call it *the most valuable coin in the world today.* It is unique and breathtakingly beautiful. As we said earlier in this article, when this great rarity eventually is placed on the market it will surely realize an all time record price for a coin. However, no matter what price it brings, it will still be a bargain since this is a literally priceless rarity and certainly one of the most beautiful coins ever made as well.

J-1778

The last coin in the Wilkison collection is the Extremely High Relief double eagle, Judd 1778, that was Saint-Gaudens original design. It is certainly one of America's most famous gold rarities and as we stated earlier, we know of one that was sold privately last summer for in excess of $125,000. That coin was distinctly inferior to this one and we must admit that this Extremely High Relief is the most nearly perfect coin that we have ever laid eyes on. No adjectives about its beauty would do it justice and it must be seen to be fully appreciated. This is true, however, of many of the coins in this fabulous gold pattern collection and is in fact the reason why Paramount will be putting it on public display so that collectors the world over can enjoy the most valuable and beautiful treasures in American Numismatics.

Although the book that we are writing on this fabulous collection is still some months away, we expect there to be a great demand for it probably considerably in excess of the number that will be printed. The book will contain full color photos and the story of every coin in the Wilkison collection. If you would like a copy reserved for you now, please write David W. Akers, Vice-President, Marketing.


J-1224

J-1230

J-1235

J-1240

J-1245

J-1250

The Unique 1872 Gold Patterns.

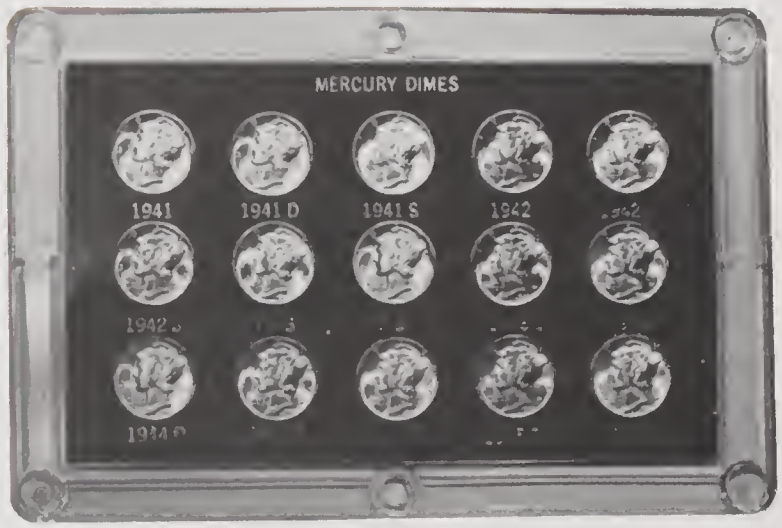
Brilliant Uncirculated Mercury Dime Sets (1941~1945)

Did you know that the head on the "Mercury Dime" is actually not a representation of the Roman god, Mercury? It is actually a winged head of Liberty – the wings symbolizing freedom of thought.

Adolph Weinman designed this beautiful coin which was first minted in 1916 to replace the Barber or Liberty Head Dime. The reverse design of the "Mercury Dime" features a bundle of rods around an ax known as the fasces. Fasces originated in Roman times and were used as a badge of authority.

Recently, it was our good fortune to acquire 100 original, Brilliant Uncirculated rolls of this popular dime. In the last six months, Uncirculated Mercury Dimes have generally risen 50% in value, which certainly shows their popularity as well as their limited availability!!

Fortunately this new acquisition enables us to offer "short sets" of fifteen Mercury Dimes (1941 PDS to 1945 PDS). These 90% silver coins are now becoming very difficult to purchase. We carefully checked each



roll for quality and found these to be much better than usually obtainable. Each set of fifteen dimes will be mounted in a custom plastic holder at no extra charge.

Short Sets of Mercury Dimes (1941 PDS – 1945 PDS, 15 Coins), In Plastic Holder, All Brilliant Uncirculated $59.95

John F. Kennedy Presidential Art Medals

Here is a very limited issue medal from the popular Presidential Art Series. We recently purchased literally a small hoard of several hundred John F. Kennedy Medals.

These medals are a large 1¼ inches in diameter and were limited to 6,500 pieces. Ralph J. Menconi was the designer and sculptor of these pure silver (.999+ fine) medals. The reverse of the medal features the impressive Presidential Seal.

An interesting story connected to these medals is the fact that the late President personally distributed many of these medals at the Vienna Summit Conference in 1961. In the past few years these have retailed for as high as $100. The original issue of 6,500 has been "sold out" for quite some time. Original issue price was $10 and we feel our current asking price of $30 is very reasonable considering the scarcity of the issue.

JOHN F. KENNEDY, PRESIDENTIAL ART MEDAL, each $30.00

Bahamas Specimen Set SPECIAL

Modern issue coins from the Bahamas are not only popular, but are also very beautiful. As the exclusive worldwide distributor for these coins, we at Paramount can vouch for their tremendous popularity. As new collectors come on the scene, they seek out the earlier sets in order to complete their collections. Oftentimes, they find the cost of the earlier proof sets to be too high, so specimen sets offer a perfect alternative for the bargain hunter.

Recently, we purchased a small quantity of Uncirculated specimen sets from the Bahamas. Although these coins should not be confused with the more valuable proof sets of the same years, they still possess the same charisma that attracts so many collectors . . . in fact, the specimen sets are identical to the proof sets except for the style of packaging and the finish on the coins. The Uncirculated specimens have satin surfaces in contrast to mirror-like surfaces of the proofs.

For a limited time, we offer these coins at a special price. The 1970, 1971, and 1972 sets normally retail for $24.75 each and the 1973 retails for $23.75. You may select **any two** sets for just $45.

BAHAMAS SPECIMEN SETS

1970	**$24.75**
1971	**$24.75**
1972	**$24.75**
1973	**$23.75**
SPECIAL! Any Two Sets for	**$45.00**

a message from the President

(Cont'd. from Page 2)

that series. In some cases, this presents monumental problems if there are no established reference works on the known varieties. In a situation such as this, the collector must start from scratch and establish his own list of existing varieties.

An old friend of ours, Carl McClerg of Elyria, Ohio has been well known in numismatics for his interest in Bust half dollar varieties and later Bust type half dime varieties. Once he had achieved what one could reasonably expect to do in these series, he approached us for some suggestions as to which area of numismatics he should look to for the continuation of his collecting instincts. Ray Merena of our firm suggested that he consider the Buffalo Nickel series, as the coins were generally underrated and rather difficult to locate in sharply struck Uncirculated condition. A few months later, Carl showed us the fruits of his labor at the Boston ANA Convention. In that extremely short period of time, he had succeeded in assembling a virtually complete collection of Buffalo Nickels in exceptionally choice condition! His comments to us were in effect, "That didn't take very long, what's next?"

As we have said before, one of the most appealing aspects of numismatics is the fact that you can make your collection as simple or as complex as you like; as expensive or inexpensive as you like. Whatever goals you set for yourself, whether they are attainable or unattainable, the choice is yours. This flexibility and individuality is one of the factors in the tremendous increase in popularity of numismatics. It is impossible to become jaded or bored with the collecting of rare coins. There is always something new, something different to consider and this vitality has helped to make numismatics what it is today.

The magnificent 25 Guilder celebrating the Silver Anniversary of the Coronation of Queen Juliana.

QUEEN JULIANA PRESENTED 25 GUILDER CROWNS

Ken Davies, right, of the Royal Canadian Mint, presents the first proof strikes of the Netherlands Antilles 25 Guilder Crown to J. J. Beaujon, of the Netherlands Antilles anniversary committee. Several members of the Coronation committee visited Canada on their way to the Hague to tour the facilities at the Royal Canadian Mint and witness striking of the first coins.

In a ceremony September 5, 1973 on the grounds of the Royal Palace at Soestdijk in the Hague, Netherlands, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands was presented the first Proof 25 Guilder Sterling Silver Crown commemorating the Silver Anniversary of her Coronation.

The presentation was held on the actual anniversary date of the Coronation and was one of the highlights of the celebration. Making the presentation was J. J. Beaujon, Head of the Netherlands Antilles Anniversary Committee. He was accompanied by Mr. George Raven of the Central Bank of Curaçao and representatives of the six islands of the Netherlands Antilles.

Mr. Beaujon reported that the Queen was "deeply interested and even touched" by the presentation. He said the Queen questioned him at length about the details and symbolic meaning of the design and was "delighted with this very special coin".

Her Majesty Queen Juliana is presented the coin by J. J. Beaujon, head of the Netherlands Antilles anniversary committee. Prince Bernhard, far right, and members of the committee representing the six islands of the Netherlands Antilles, look on.

On their way to the Hague, several members of the Coronation committee visited Canada to tour the facilities at the Royal Canadian Mint where the coins are being struck. The Committee witnessed the striking of the first coins and Ken Davies of the Royal Canadian Mint presented the coins to Mr. Beaujon. Also on hand at the Mint were Mr. Swindern, the Dutch Counselor at the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Ottawa, Mr. Raven and Mr. Russell Richmond representing Paramount International Coin Corporation, the exclusive worldwide numismatic agent for the Crown size coin.

Collectors wishing to purchase this anniversary crown may do so by sending $18.50 for each Uncirculated coin and $26 for each Proof coin. There is a limit of one Proof and five Specimen coins per person. Orders for the Proof coins will be accepted through December 31, 1973 while Specimen coins may be ordered throughout 1974.

Walter Ott, Deputy-Chief of the Engraving Division of the Royal Canadian Mint, inspects the first proof 25 Guilders produced by the Royal Canadian Mint.

HEADS AND TALES

by
Thomas V. Haney
Former Numismatic
Editor of
The
New York Times

1. Oaxaca, Mexico — Gold 60 Pesos 1916. 2. Pernambuco, Brazil (under the Dutch) — Gold 6 Guilders 1646. 3. Jamaica — Ctsp. on Gold 8 Escudos of Peru c. 1758. 4. Quebec Bank, Province of Canada — Copper 1 Penny/2 Sous (Habitant Token) 1852. 5. Massachusetts Bay Colony — Silver Pine Tree Shilling c. 1670. 6. United States — Gold 20 Dollars 1907.

MORE THAN 100 MEMBERS and friends of the American Numismatic Society convened at the A.N.S. Museum in New York on September 5 for a reception in honor of Henry Grunthal, Curator, who was retiring after 20 years on the staff.

The event really served a dual purpose for many of the guests had been invited to see a preview of a special exhibit titled "Coinage of the Americas". This display, which will run at least a year, is high on the list of the major shows to be held throughout this country to commemorate the Bicentennial of the American Revolution.

Mr. Grunthal told this writer that he planned to spend most of his time in the New York area and will continue to serve the Museum as a special consultant.

Leslie A. Elam, the A.N.S. Director, in presenting a number of gifts to the international scholar, said Henry's title really should have been "Curator of all Medieval, European and Modern Coinage". The retiring numismatist usually was listed as Curator of European and Modern Coins.

Mr. Grunthal, who has devoted most of his life to numismatics, began his career in Germany under the tutelage of his father, a prominent coin dealer. He pursued his education at Berlin, Jena and the Sorbonne, studying under numismatic scholars such as Kurt Regling and Geheimrat Pick.

Leaving his native Germany, he came to the United States in 1938 and joined Stack's of New York. He worked for Stack's until 1941 when he established his own business. In 1953, Mr. Grunthal was signed to the A.N.S. staff, first as Assistant to the Chief Curator. Later he became Curator of European and Modern Coins.

Mr. Grunthal's duties at the Museum now will be shared by Jeremiah D. Brady, an internationally respected specialist in medievals, and Hillel Kaslove, another expert, who will cover modern issues. Margaret Thompson is the Museum's Chief Curator.

In addition to research, writing and lecturing, Henry has been a very enthusiastic participant in the collecting hobby. He said he would continue these activities as long as his health permits. He served as president of the New York Numismatic Club (founded in 1908) in 1970 and 1971. Among the gifts he received at the reception was the New York Club's Presidential Medal.

The special exhibit really was timed for the arrival of 300

representatives from 33 nations for the first International Numismatic Congress held in this country, which began the following Monday. The last world general assembly took place at Copenhagen in 1967.

This year's convention, which included a week of activities in New York and Washington, D.C., was organized by the International Numismatic Commission, with the American Numismatic Society and the Smithsonian Institution as co-hosts.

Most of the exhibit space of the A.N.S. Museum is devoted to its "Coinage of the Americas" show. More than half the 1400 specimens in the exhibit are drawn from the society's own vast collections. The display is augmented by select pieces on loan from other collections, notably those of the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society of St. Louis and the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation.

A brief sight and sound show introduces visitors to the exhibit, which is being supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in the nation's capital.

The show opens with the introduction of coinage into the western hemisphere by the Spanish explorers and the consequent start of the first mint in the Americas – at Mexico City in 1535. Depicted is the spread of Spanish influence, which, combined with the unearthing of rich sources of fine gold and silver, led to many Spanish mints in Latin America that were able to produce great quantities of coinage.

The results of the rich metal discoveries was a great deal of diversification in terms of metal fabric, quality of mint production and artistry in designs, particularly in the portraits of the ruling Spanish monarchs. All such numismatic history is traced through the exhibit, the items being accompanied by scholarly data to aid visitors.

We find other nations, such as Portugal, The Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, France and England, also had hands in the numismatic tradition of the Americas. Colonial development and the succeeding independence or evolution into the Commonwealth system is depicted for each area of this hemisphere, providing visitors with a panorama of coinage from the first issues in each area through the coins currently in circulation in each country.

Tokens from early Canada, large cents from the first Philadelphia Mint, as well as fine specimens of medallic art work, also are part of the glittering show. The Museum used some of the trial pieces from its own collection for an analysis of the striking of the high-relief United States $20 gold pieces of 1907, designed and sculpted by Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

An A.N.S. survey in a bound paperback of 140 pages, which was edited by Theodore V. Buttrey, Jr., serves as an excellent catalogue for the exhibit. The book is very well illustrated. In addition to Buttrey, the skilled numismatists who contributed articles were Humberto F. Burzio, Henry Grunthal, Jeremiah D. Brady, Ray Byrne, Hillel Kaslove, Eric P. Newman and Walter H. Breen.

From its beginning in 1858, the Society has actively engaged in the collection and study of coins and medals and the assembling of an extensive research library. Outgrowing its original quarters (several rented rooms), the A.N.S. erected its own building in 1907. An addition to that structure in 1929 doubled the interior space of the Museum facing Audubon Terrace, on Broadway between 155th and 156th Streets.

Henry Grunthal, retiring after 20 years of service stands before the A.N.S. museum's "Coinage of the Americas" display.

Its excellent library facilities are available not only to numismatists, but to the public in general for research. There is no charge for use of the library and none for admission to the exhibit area. Visiting hours are from 9 A.M. until 5 P.M., excepting Sundays, Mondays and holidays.

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Edward J. Black and his wife, Anna, who have been active in numismatics for more than 25 years, lost little time in getting into the swing of things following their recent "retirement" to Lakeland, Florida.

Ed, who switched his home base from Demarest, New Jersey to the Sunshine State, is now the American Numismatic Association's Florida representative after having served as field man for New Jersey. The Blacks played major roles in the formation of numerous clubs in the Metropolitan New York area and both served on many committees for shows on local, state and national levels.

Ed was a charter member of the Northern Valley C. C. of Demarest and served as its first president in 1956. Under his leadership and devoted work, the club that started out with only eight members became an organization of almost 100 active members.

Black conducted adult education classes, lectured in schools and libraries and helped put together and supervise exhibits for various civic groups while up North.

Anna, having taught in the New Jersey schools for years, interested many students in coin collecting for the hobby's educational values. As a result, the A.N.A. gained numerous members who began as enthusiastic juniors.

Ed, with his wife as an aide, really has things sparkling in Florida, having organized the Lakeland Coin Club with 18 charter members and more than 30 other candidates who have been attending the monthly meetings.

The club convenes in the Community Room of the Polk Federal Savings and Loan Association, South Gate Branch, and has air-conditioned rooms with facilities to accommodate more than 100 persons.

A judge of exhibits at last summers A.N.A. Convention, Ed took the application blanks for his members to Boston after his "Southerners" had voted unanimously to join the parent organization. Co-sponsors for his Lakeland members included Virginia Culver, John Jay Pittman, George Hatie, Grover Criswell, Eva Adams, Fred Mantei and Roger Storm.

More Uncut Currency Sheets

In two of our recent price lists we have offered sheets of old uncut currency from several Southern banks that were printed over *100 years ago.* At this time, we have two different notes which would be of interest to those who have already ordered similar notes in the last month or two. These sheets measure approximately 8½ inches by 14 inches and are beautifully engraved examples of early currency used in the period just prior to the Civil War.

SHEET E

Sheet of four $50 notes from the branch of the Citizens' Bank of Louisiana at Shreveport. The obverse is a beautiful green and black color. The reverse is bright orange. These colorful notes were printed by the American Bank Note Company $16.95

SHEET F

Sheet of four $5 notes from the Citizens' Bank of Louisiana. These were printed by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch, and Edson of New Orleans. The obverse is black and orange, while the reverse is blue in color. These notes bear both English and French inscriptions $12.95

SPECIAL: BOTH Sheet E and Sheet F, only $26.95

1904-S Morgan Dollars

Although its mintage is over 2 million, the 1904-S Morgan Dollar is very scarce, if not rare, in full mint state condition. This is, no doubt, due to the fact that very few of these were saved when first released. Many coins of this date exist in conditions just short of mint state and as such are not nearly as valuable.

In the last year, we have been able to buy only a very few 1904-S Morgans in full, original mint state condition. In the recent Gilhousen - 3 sale, an MS-65 proof-like dollar realized $750.

We offer this same scarce date in either Mint State 60 or Mint State 65 at prices considerably below this figure. As the last year of Silver Dollar mintage until 1921, the 1904-S is a fairly popular type coin.

If you need this scarce date, we suggest you place your order as early as possible while rare date Silver Dollars are still reasonably priced.

1904-S Morgan Dollar, MS-60. . . . . $425.00
1904-S Morgan Dollar, MS-65. . . . . $550.00

Introduction to the Gold Sovereign

THE GREATEST ERA of gold coinage was during the hundred years between the downfall of Napoleon and the outbreak of World War I. It was during these years that some of the richest gold strikes were made and gold coins were in circulation nearly everywhere.

It was at the beginning of this period, in 1816, that the Royal Mint of Great Britain embarked on completely new coinage. The silver coins in circulation at that time were not only badly worn but were worth less, intrinsically, than their face value. As for the gold coins of the day, they had disappeared from circulation entirely during the Napoleonic Wars. The Mint had just been moved to a new building on Tower Hill and was equipped throughout with the newest steam-powered machinery.

Government officials, in planning for the new coinage, decided to do away with the old and somewhat awkward 21 Shilling Guinea and replace it with a new 20 Shilling 1 pound coin called a "Sovereign". These were struck on smaller but thicker planchets than the Guineas.

The first issues, struck from 1817 through 1820, bore the portrait of King George III. Around his head was a laurel wreath tied with a ribbon at the back. Encircling this was the Latin legend – GEORGIUS III D G BRITANNIAR REX F D – "By the Grace of God, King of Britain, Defender of the Faith". This was a somewhat shorter legend than that which appeared on the earlier Guineas.

The reverse of the Sovereign shows a magnificent figure of St. George slaying the dragon. There is an interesting legend about St. George who, as a Christian soldier of the Roman Empire, was executed in Palestine around 300 A.D. It is said that during his lifetime George attained high military rank and even paid a visit to Britain on one of his many expeditions. St. George's reputation as a dragon slayer probably came about through some Christian converts who perhaps transferred their pagan legends to a man, or "hero", of their new faith. In any event, St. George was well liked by the soldiers and later on the crusaders adopted him as their guardian saint. He was ultimately declared a patron saint by King Edward III (1327-77).

Around the reverse of these first Sovereigns is the emblem of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, England's highest civil and military award. This, too, recalls some interesting and perhaps little known facts about the Order of the Garter. It was originally known as the Order of St. George, a society founded in 1348 by King Edward III, a fraternity consisting of the King and 25 Knight Companions.

The origin of the Order is attributed to an incident which took place at a court ball. 'Tis said that a noble lady lost one of her garters, and while she stood blushing and extremely embarrassed, those around her began to laugh. Whereupon King Edward nobly picked up the garter, tied it around his own leg, and loudly proclaimed in French so all could hear – "Honi Soit Qui Mal y Pense" – "Shamed be he who thinks evil of it. I shall turn this into the most honourable garter ever worn." And that he did as his statement was used as the motto of the Order he founded. It can be found inscribed on the garter device that appears on the reverse of Britain's first Gold Sovereigns.

Propaganda Coins of Rome

TO THE ANCIENT ROMANS, monuments and coins were the newspapers, radios and television of the day. Although originally intended as a medium of exchange and a handy way of carrying wealth, these ancient coins gradually assumed larger roles.

During the early Republican period, moneyers at first only dared to put their names in small, barely noticeable monogram form on their coins, but they soon grew rapidly bolder and went so far as to spell out their names in full. Having come this far without opposition, they began placing symbolic pictures on the coins – and these were pictures that had absolutely nothing to do with Rome or her history. Rather, they were portraits of the moneyer's family heroes, or their ancestors, even of divinities closely connected with their own families. In short, they were propaganda attempts to let the people know just what an important fellow the man was who issued their money. They might even want to elect him to office again the next time around.

By the end of the Republic era, portraits of living rulers began to make their appearance on coins. The first to do so was Julius Caesar, and this resulted in every Emperor who followed him putting his effigy on the money of the realm. But this soon reached a saturation point; an Emperor's face was too well known to even warrant a second glance . . . everyone knew it was there so why bother to look. It became apparent that something else had to be done to get the people's attention. The answer was the *reverse* of the coin. This could now be used to tell a message. Although Rome did have a newspaper of sorts – the Acta Diurna – precious few people outside of Rome ever saw it, so to the millions and millions who lived in the Empire, coins were the only means of telling what was going on in the outside world.

Came a time when the Emperor fell ill. Dutifully, the moneyers turned out coins on which appeared Salus, the God of Health, sacrificing for the ruler's recovery. When the Emperor returned to Rome from a successful campaign, Adventus Augusti was celebrated and the ruler was shown astride his horse, being welcomed home.

Possibly the greatest message of all to the Roman people was victory, no doubt due to the fact that for most of

(Cont'd. on Page 22)

The BOOKSHELF

by
Thomas V. Haney
Former Numismatic
Editor of
The
New York Times

Major changes in an enlarged paper money section, which has been completely revised, is a feature of the 22nd edition of the *"Standard Catalogue of Canadian Coins, Tokens and Paper Money"*, by James E. Charlton. The 184-page paperback ($2.95) has added bank and merchant notes, new illustrations and a new numbering system for government notes.

Coin patterns, with excellent illustrations, also are additions to the revised edition for 1974. The author lists the earliest money of Canada, going back to 1670 and the French coinage used by settlers in Quebec. The paper currency dates to 1685, when playing cards were used as money. The spiralling changes in prices from the first edition by Charlton in 1952 to the present, are given in tabular form.

The interesting old tokens of Canada, issued by banks and merchants, including those from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, the North West Co., and Hudson Bay's Co. are catalogued and pictured.

Overall, this excellent reference book gives the numismatist complete and authoritative coverage of Canadian items. Charlton's 25 years of experience and research, plus the work of capable assistants and some friends he called on, are reflected in the *"Standard Catalogue"*.

The book will soon be available in most coin and hobby shops or may be ordered directly from the publisher, Charlton International Publishing, Inc., 299 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5V 1Z9, Canada.

"Appraising and Selling Your Coins", published by The Coin and Currency Institute, Inc., 393 Seventh Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10001, covers a wide field within its 174 pages.

This eighth edition ($2.25) of *"The Green Coin Book"* was edited by Jack Friedberg, who worked with his late brother, Robert, in producing many of the previous issues. The associate editors were Louis A. Geller and Arthur S. Goldenberg.

The hard bound book represents a good, well illustrated catalogue of not only U.S. coinage but our paper money from 1652 to the present. However, most of the prices listed have followed the upward trend since the publication date.

The editors also have included the coinage of Canada and Newfoundland from 1858 to date. In addition to the more modern U.S. items covered in the paper currency section, are the early-day fractional and Confederate issues.

Many books often prove too technical, not being designed with the idea of luring newcomers to the collecting pastime. However, this cannot be said of the enlarged edition of Burton Hobson's *"Coin Collecting as a Hobby"*.

The author compiled this work in a style that should create interest among novices, yet it is informative enough to provide pleasant reading for our hobby's veterans. The 176-page hard bound ($3.50) was issued by the Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., 419 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.

Hobson opens with the question "Why collect coins?" Then he points out the fascination of world monies with their various artistic designs carrying historical messages. Topical collecting – for those who desire animals, fish, birds, plants, ships, etc. – are discussed and illustrated.

How coins are made (with pictures of the Mint), U.S. Commemoratives and proof coinage are among other features. Hobson also notes the growing interest in the proof sets of other countries, illustrating the handsome 1972 issue from the Bahamas.

Another interesting section of the book is devoted to oddities and errors made in production. The author pictures many of our major errors of recent years, telling his readers how the mistakes occur.

Indian Head Varieties

A slight design change on the obverse design of the Indian Head Cent took place in 1886. Coins issued 1859 to 1885 position the last feather of the headdress between the I and C of AMERICA; on the cents dated 1887 to 1909 the last feather points between the letters C and A of AMERICA. The 1886 is known in both types, indicating the change took place sometime that year.

The Life of Your Paper Money

(Cont'd from Page 3)

Perfect sheets are given a top dressing of glue, alum and water to give them a better finish and make them wear longer. Special machines put on the serial number, signatures and other identifying marks. They are cut, counted and given final inspection.

Imperfect bills are replaced by ones bearing the same serial number. They are then put in packets of 4,000 each with steel bands around them. The bills are then transported to the treasury and stored until called into circulation. The treasury contains about a three months supply for replacements and necessary needs. The making of paper money is a thirty-two day procedure from the time it starts on the presses until it is ready for circulation.

The Bureau of Printing and Engraving manufactures 4,000,000 greenbacks a day or 1,500,000,000 pieces of new currency annually. Christmastime presents the greatest demand for money. People draw from banks, the banks deposit securities with the Federal Reserve Banks and get more currency. The Federal Reserve Banks draw the needed cash from the Treasury. After the Christmas season is over, the merchants bring the money back to the banks, banks redeem their securities and the Federal Reserve Banks send it back to the Treasury.

It is estimated a dollar bill changes hands on an average of five times a day or 400 times before it is returned to the Treasury for redemption. Oil, grease and gasoline are the greatest natural destroyers of bills, because they collect dirt which grinds the fibre. Worn bills returned to the Treasury are destroyed. Old bills are halved with great knives, then chopped into fine pieces and mixed with hot water and ground into pulp. The pulp is sold to make coarse cardboard or fine stationery.

Philadelphia Double Eagles from the Roaring Twenties!

Paramount made a very unusual purchase recently which included several dates of the popular Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle from the 1920's. The fact that we bought several dates of this denomination is not so unusual, but the fact that all the coins are Choice Brilliant Uncirculated is! We offer starter sets of five dates (1924, 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928) for the collector or investor who wants to acquire a high grade group of these beautiful coins.

Due to the large surface areas of the Double Eagle, most specimens offered on today's market have a considerable number of bag-marks. The coins we have for sale are beautiful, Choice Brilliant Uncirculated and have a minimum of marks and scratches.

If you wish, you may purchase any single date from this group for $249, but by purchasing the five coins as a group, you will save over $100.

Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle (1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928), Your Choice of Date, Choice Brilliant Uncirculated $249.00

All Five Dates, Choice Brilliant Uncirculated $1125.00

THE CHARLOTTE MINT

(This is the second in a series of articles devoted to the various United States Mints)

ON JUNE 28, 1834 when a new law was passed reducing the weight of standard gold, it put our country, in effect, on a gold standard. This, of course, was a boon to the gold mines of Georgia and North Carolina, and in a matter of three or four years, branch mints were established to handle the newly-mined gold right at the source.

The first important gold mining operations were conducted along the eastern slope of the Appalachian Mountains in North Carolina, in Mecklenburg County, and later in a number of other surrounding countries. In fact, gold was the sustaining economy in the Mecklenburg area from 1840 to 1860 and was considered the chief industry until 1849.

Approximately 75 to 100 mines of various sizes and quality, were opened within a twenty-mile radius of Charlotte. With the gold mining industry flourishing, the area felt a necessity for a branch of the United States Mint, and a committee of the General Assembly began to review the situation. Predicting that it would take a century for the mines to reach their greatest yield, the committee felt that establishing a mint in Charlotte would be "but planting a tree under whose full-spread shade our posterity will repose."

Efforts were then made in Congress on March 3, 1835 to open a branch mint in Charlotte, and subsequently eight lots were purchased on November 25, 1835, by Samuel McComb, agent and commissioner for the United States Government. The original site of the building was to be on these lots, near the center of the city. Although two other branch mints had been authorized, this one was the first to be opened in the United States on December 4, 1837.

These eight lots formed the four acres on which the building was erected and were bought from William Carson and F. L. Smith, for the sum of $1,500. The building itself was designed by William Strickland, (1787-1854), a Philadelphia artist and architect. Perry & Ligon, of Raleigh, were the contractors, and the entire structure cost $29,500 to build. It was admired throughout the land for its simplicity and dignity of modified Gothic lines. Its only ornament was a huge eagle above the front door.

The first deposit was made on December 4, 1837 by Irwin & Elms, and thus the Charlotte Mint, open for business, began its coinage of gold. And on every coin struck, half eagles and quarter eagles, appeared the letter "c". Its first superintendent was Colonel John Hill Wheeler; its first assayer Dr. John H. Gibbon. The Charlotte Mint was to serve the Southern Appalachian gold mines for fourteen years before the gold rush to California.

Things went well at the Mint the first twelve years. Gold poured in in its raw state and poured out in coin form, but the year 1844 was to be a disastrous year, for on July 27th, a fire almost totally destroyed the building and its machinery. It is thought that the carelessness of a tinner, repairing the roof, was the cause of the blaze. At once, the question of rebuilding the structure was put before the Congress, and though it was a controversial one at first, it was through the efforts of Congressman D. M. Barringer, who pressed for passage of the act, that the rebuilding took place in 1845-46, along the same architectual plan. It was the second fireproof building in the United States, the first one being in Charleston, South Carolina.

In 1861, at the start of the War Between the States, the building was seized and occupied by the Confederate authorities, and used as their military headquarters in this district until 1865. At the War's end, the building was taken over by the Federal authorities; coinage was abandoned, and the Mint became an important assaying office. However, the building was reopened in 1869, but even then there was some talk of closing and selling the buildings and ground. The city of Charlotte, through various editorials, strongly opposed this move, stating how the Mint was located in the heart of the gold region, and how it had done so much to stimulate the development of the mines, and stating also that "the Treasury cannot be so empty as to make this little curtailment necessary."

However, despite the arguments and pleas for its existence, the United States Government, in 1913, ordered the building closed, and the branch operations were discontinued.

For all its short and somewhat chaotic history, the final records of the Charlotte Mint boasted that a total of $5,109,443.88 worth of gold coins had passed through its doors.

Propaganda Coins of Rome

(Cont'd. from Page 19)

the time Rome was engaged in a war of some type, and it is for this reason the figure of Victory, winged and holding a palm branch to signify peace, appears on more Roman coins than any other symbol. One can find Victory standing, seated, flying, alone, with a trophy or with a prisoner; sometimes with the Emperor crowning him, and sometimes even with the name of the fallen people, or of the battle just won.

During the 3rd century, the standard coin called the Antoninian, frequently portrayed the Victory figure, but it was during this period that things started going badly for Rome, now under Germanic and Persian pressure, and the symbol of Victory became a meaningless one. So, in effect, the propaganda message via Victory that formerly told the people – "Rejoice! We have won!" – now signified nothing more than – "We'll be victorious yet, you'll see!"

Victory coins were issued in huge numbers and tell us in unspoken words, that indeed, hope sprang eternal in the Roman Empire.

Eagles Must Remain

The eagle was given the subordinate position for the first time on U.S. coinage in 1948 when the Franklin Half Dollar replaced the Standing Liberty Half Dollar. The Liberty Bell replaced the eagle, but a small eagle with folded wings was placed beside the bell. The law stipulated that an eagle should be used on all coins of higher denomination, thus its figure was retained.

ASK PARAMOUNT

Q. I have a coin which I cannot identify. It is a 100 Franken coin dated 1955 with the word Saarland on it. I cannot find what Saarland stands for. Can you help?

J. M. S.
Honeybrook, Pennsylvania

A. Saarland stands for Saarland! Saarland is a small area between Germany and France bordering Luxembourg. Until 1947, the area had been in dispute between Germany and France for hundreds of years. In 1947, it became an independent state but just ten years later its people voted to unite with Germany. It issued coinage in 1954 and 1955. Your copper nickel coin, a 100 Franken, was issued only in 1955. According to the **Standard Catalog of World Coins,** its mintage was 11 million and has a value of $5.00 in Uncirculated condition.

Q. As a beginning collector, I would like to know how many 1943 bronze Cents and 1944 steel Cents are known and their approximate value.

E. D.
Conshohocken, Pennsylvania

A. The 1943 bronze Cent is probably the most famous of all U.S. coins to beginning collectors and those who do not collect at all. Information for these coins is scarce. **Scott's Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins** states the 1943 Bronze Cent is a Rarity 7 (7-9 known) and is valued at $1,200. The 1944 steel Cent is somewhat more common. Scott's says this coin is a Rarity 6 (13-30 known) with a value of $650. These values may not be accurate since these coins are rarely offered at public sale. Both coins were struck in error. As most collectors know, the 1943 Cents were to be

(Cont'd. on Page 26)

A Ten Year Review of U.S. Type Coins

(Cont'd. from Page 6)

covered, thus, accounting for the scarcity in mint condition.

Note: Prices listed are for common date coins of a particular type.

1964 Unc. Catalogue Value	1974 Unc. Catalogue Value	Current Retail Price

U.S. DIMES

SMALL EAGLE REVERSE 1796-1797

$1,000.00	$2,100.00	$4,000.00

HERALDIC EAGLE REVERSE 1798-1807

$ 230.00	$ 900.00	$1,800.00

DRAPE BUST, LARGE SIZE 1809-1828

$ 60.00	$ 500.00	$1,400.00

DRAPE BUST, SMALL SIZE 1828-1837

$ 25.00	$ 400.00	$1,000.00

LIBERTY SEATED TYPE 1837-1838

$ 175.00	$ 675.00	$1,500.00

LIBERTY SEATED NO DRAPERY 1838-1841

$ 25.00	$ 200.00	$ 400.00

LIBERTY SEATED TYPE WITH DRAPERY 1840-1860

$ 19.50	$ 100.00	$ 225.00

LIBERTY SEATED WITH ARROWS 1853-1855

$ 16.00	$ 200.00	$ 400.00

1860-1891

$ 11.00	$ 75.00	$ 150.00

ARROWS 1873-1874

$ 60.00	$ 300.00	$ 600.00

BARBER TYPE 1892-1916

$ 10.00	$ 50.00	$ 80.00

"MERCURY" DIME 1916-1945

$ .60	$ 1.25	$ 2.25

Huguenot and Illinois Commemorative Special

At this time Commemorative Half Dollars are extremely popular. Therefore, we are continuing to offer two more Commemoratives at this time.

We have selected the Huguenot-Walloon Tercentenary (mintage 142,080) and the Lincoln-Illinois Centennial (mintage 100,058) for this offering. These may be purchased individually or as a pair.

The Huguenot Commemorative, issued in 1924, commemorated the settling of the Huguenots and the Walloons in the New World. Profiles of Admiral Gaspaid de Coligny of France and William the Silent of the Netherlands form the main devices of the obverse.

The Lincoln-Illinois Commemorative was authorized to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the admission of Illinois into the Union in 1918. This is the first souvenir piece for such an event. The likeness of young Lincoln is the primary obverse component. The reverse is a version of the Illinois State Seal.

All of these coins are Brilliant Uncirculated and come from original rolls. If you have not yet started collecting Commemoratives, we think these coins offer the perfect starting place. Buy both and SAVE!

1918 Lincoln-Illinois Half Dollar, Brilliant Uncirculated . . . . . $ 65.00
1924 Huguenot-Walloon Half Dollar, Brilliant Uncirculated . . . . . $ 65.00
SPECIAL! Both of the Above $125.00

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 30 PESO GOLD

The 1955 Dominican Republic 30 Peso gold piece is a very scarce and unusual coin for several reasons, some of which include:

- Its original face value was equivalent to $30 U.S.
- It is the only coin of the Americas that was struck based on the old $35 per ounce gold value.
- Its mintage was just 32,750 pieces!
- It is legal to own due to its low mintage qualifying it as a true collector's item.
- Its gold content is .900 fine.
- It is a commemorative struck to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Trujillo regime.

Minted at Mexico City, these large pieces did not circulate to any great extent. Their diameter of 32.75mm is just 1.25mm smaller than the United States Double Eagle.

These coins have been rising steadily in value for several months. A year ago, in *Rare Coin List Number Three* we sold these for $149.00! Now we have to pay much more than this to replace them in our inventory. All pieces are Brilliant Uncirculated.

1955 Dominican Republic 30 Peso Gold Piece, BU $250.00

The Largest
and the Smallest

Did you know that the largest and the smallest gold coins being actively traded on today's gold market come from the same country? That's right! Mexico lays firm claim to both the heavyweight and the flyweight titles when it comes to gold coins.

The massive Mexican 50 Peso coin is the largest gold coin that gold collectors and investors can buy in any reasonable quantity. It contains a remarkable 1.2 ounces of **pure gold,** or slightly more than 20% more gold than a U.S. Twenty Dollar Gold piece! And yet in comparable condition, it sells for approximately the same. Small wonder then that the 50 Peso is one of the world's most popular and sought after gold coins.

Its high intrinsic value alone is enough to recommend it, and yet it offers the collector much more. Simply stated, with its majestic "Winged Victory" on the obverse and Mexico's traditional eagle and snake on the reverse, it is one of the most beautiful coins **ever** issued by **any** country. It is commonly called the "Centenario" since it was first issued in 1921 to commemorate the centennial of Mexico's independence from Spain.

The Centenario's little partner in this interesting set is the diminutive 2 Peso gold coin. It is exactly the same size as a U.S. type I gold dollar and is one of the few gold coins that still sells for around $10.00. Like the huge Centenario, the little 2 Peso has the famed eagle and snake reverse. The obverse design is simple, yet eloquent, the denomination "Dos Pesos" appearing below the date in a wreath.

Both coins in the set are Choice Brilliant Uncirculated specimens, carefully selected to be free of any defects. They are enclosed in a plastic holder with a beautiful jet black plastic insert. This custom holder provides protection for the coins and makes them easy and attractive to display. It is provided **at no extra charge.**

Mexican Gold – The Largest and The Smallest $219.00

Welcome to Paramount's COIN "ZOO"

WE CONTINUE THIS MONTH with Paramount's Coin "Zoo," listing alphabetically the animals, fish and birds that appear on various coins throughout the world.

DEER – Found in many places all over the world; have long horns. Pictured on 1965 50 Yuan and 100 Yuan of China; on 1934 ½ Rupee of Mauritius; also 1938, 46, 1950, 51, 65, same country.

DOG – Domestic animal. Pictured on 1930 5 & 10 Leva of Bulgaria; 1928-41-42 Irish 6 Pence; 1958 50 Ore of Norway.

ELEPHANT – Native to Western Asia and Africa; valued for their ivory tusks which can grow to a length of 10 feet. Feed on green foliage; drink up to 50 gallons of water a day. Found on coins of Belgium Congo, 1944 50 Francs; 1947-48 5 Francs, etc. Also on 1916 German East Africa 15 Rupees; on 1961 Israel 1 Pound; also coins of the Ivory Coast, Liberia, Malawi, Rhodesia, Somalia and Thailand. Not difficult to find.

GAZELLE – Native to Asia, Africa, and India; a very speedy and graceful animal. Pictured on 1966 Dirhem pieces of Qatar and Dubai.

GIRAFFE – Found only in Africa, they are the tallest of all animals, standing up to 18 feet. Have tremendous speed. Pictured on 1955 ½ Penny Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

HIPPOPOTAMUS – A huge animal of Africa, weighing from 3 to 5 tons; feed only at night. Found on 1970 8 Shillings of The Gambia.

HORSE – Used for farming, racing, hunting and warfare since prehistoric days. Very commonly used on coins of many countries throughout the world – Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, British Caribbean, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Italy, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, India, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, United States, Uraguay, Vatican, and Venezuela. Coins easy to locate.

In next month's issue of Paramount's Journal we will carry those animals listed under the J's through Z's. This will complete the animal section of our "Zoo." Following that will come a listing of birds and fish that can be found on various world coins.

Ask Paramount

(Cont'd. from Page 23)

struck on steel planchets due to a copper shortage in World War II. A few blank bronze planchets somehow got to the coining presses thereby creating this very unusual and controversial coin. In 1944, when the Cents were to be struck in bronze again, a few steel planchets crept into the presses creating a similar situation. It should be pointed out that many numismatists do not consider these coins as legitimate mint errors.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT COINS, WE WILL TRY TO ANSWER AS MANY AS POSSIBLE IN THIS COLUMN. SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

TOM MULVANEY
THE PARAMOUNT JOURNAL
PARAMOUNT BUILDING
ENGLEWOOD, OHIO 45322

COLONIAL MINTS

Important colonial mints in the early history of the United States often were in "unlikely" places. One of the earliest, for example, was established in the small rustic town of Rupert, Vermont. Why was such a town chosen? For no other reason than it was the home and place of business of Reuben Harmon, Jr., who was granted permission to strike copper cents. The first Vermont cent was issued in that mint in 1785.

Another mint was established in a hardware factory near Newburgh, N.Y. in 1787 where cents for New York and Connecticut were produced in great quantity. Counterfeit coppers of George II and George III, were also produced.

Connecticut had two colonial mints, one at Westville, later moved to New Haven, and another at Morris Cove. One of the leading participants was Abel Buel, a die sinker credited with making the dies for the "Fugio" Cent, the first coin issued by the authority of the United States, in 1787.

Each state handled its own money before establishment of the Mint at Philadelphia in 1792. New Hampshire in 1776 was the first to authorize the issuance of copper coins.

The mints operating at Rupert, Newburgh, and in Connecticut, together with mints at Morristown and Elizabeth, N.J., although they had a short life, served their purpose in awakening the consciousness of the new republic to a need for a stabilized, unified monetary system, a step finally taken through the opening of the Mint at Philadelphia.

19th Century European Gold Coins

Traditionally, the coins of European countries have always displayed the bust of their reigning monarchs. This was a matter of honor and prestige, as well as a symbol of the ruler's power in his nation.

With the continued decline in European monarchies, these coins have become an important part of numismatic history as well as a valuable addition to any coin collection. Paramount has assembled a *rare* group of these coins each of which bears the portrait of a 19th century monarch. Spanning the continent of Europe, this unique set includes a beautiful gold coin from each of six countries.

From Belgium . . . the 20 Franc with the bust of Leopold II, the businessman-king. In 1878, Leopold commissioned H. M. Stanley (of Stanley and Livingstone) to journey to Africa and make a fortune for Belgium in rubber and other natural resources.

From France . . . the 20 Franc with the bust of Napoleon III, the first true European dictator. Nephew of the famous French conqueror, this Napoleon was more of a politician than a general.

From Italy . . . the 20 Lire with the bust of Victor Emmanuel II. Allied to Napoleon III, Emmanuel drove the Austrians from their holdings in the Austrian peninsula, unifying Italy and creating the country as we know it today.

From Germany . . . the 20 Mark with the bust of Kaiser Wilhelm I, creator of the German Empire. While king of Prussia, the largest of the German states, Wilhelm first declared war on Denmark to win the northern German provinces. He then proceeded to subdue the German states and finally achieved a united Germany in 1871 after a two-month war with France.

From Great Britain . . . the British Sovereign bearing the portrait of Queen Victoria, Britain's longest ruling monarch. During Victoria's reign, England developed into the greatest power in the world.

From the Netherlands . . . the 10 Guilder with the bust of William III.

We feel quite fortunate to be able to offer these scarce gold-coins to our customers. . . but we are sure they will not last long!

19th Century European Gold Set (6 coins) in a Custom Plastic Holder, Extremely Fine to Uncirculated . . . $[illegible]

World Proof Set Shipping Status Report

The 1972 Cook Islands Proof Set, Proof $1 coins, Uncirculated sets and Uncirculated $1 coins have been shipped to Paramount by the Royal Australian Mint. All U.S. orders have been shipped and foreign orders are expected to be completed by November 15.

All 1973 British Virgin Islands Proof and Uncirculated sets have been shipped.

We are presently shipping the 1973 Bahamas $10 Proof and Uncirculated coins with an expected completion date of November 15. The Bahamas $2 Proof and Uncirculated coins are now being minted and should be available for delivery within 30 days.

The 1973 Cook Islands $2 Proof and Uncirculated coins and Cook Islands commemorative stamps will be shipped by the end of November.

Production difficulties are delaying the solid silver medal set and delivery dates are unknown at this time. The limited edition sterling silver plates are now arriving and are being shipped as they arrive.

The U.S. Mint is experiencing a heavy minting schedule. The 1973 Nepal Proof Set, the 1973 Liberia Proof Set and Proof $5 coins and the 1973 Panama Proof Sets and Proof One Balboas should be available for delivery around the first of the year.

The 1973 Jamaica Proof Set and Proof $5 coins are expected to be minted during November and delivery is anticipated by mid-December.

The 1973 India 9 and 10 piece Proof sets, Proof 10 Rupee coins and Proof 20 Rupee coins should be delivered to Paramount around February.

The deadline for accepting orders for the 1973 Barbados Proof Set is November 30.

The deadline for ordering the 1973 Netherlands Antilles Proof $25 coin is December 31.

The anticipated delivery dates are proposed from the schedules presented by the various mints and are subject to revision. All items will be shipped as soon as they have been received.

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